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## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

## Improvements appertaining to the Production of Parquetry Floors

I, JOSEPH SMITH, of 11, Rawthorne Street, Bolton, in the County of Lancaster (of British nationality), do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

In the production of floors of the type or class known as parquetry floors, especially in which pieces of wood are placed and firmly pressed edge and endwise against each other to form designs of geometrical or other figured effects, it is often found when in use that one or other of the pieces of wood becomes detached and loose, especially when the pieces of wood are not rigidly nailed or otherwise fixed to each other. It is believed that the most common parquetry floors are built up solely of rectangular blocks and this is probably due to the cheapness of a floor requiring only one shape of block compared with floors in which more elaborate designs are desired.

The object of the present invention is to provide an improved method of constructing a parquetry floor of the type which shows on its surface wholly rectangular blocks.

The present invention is a method of constructing a parquetry floor whose surface consists of rectangular blocks, which comprises the use of reversible rectangular blocks each of which has protruding flanges forming sphenoidal grooves on each of its four sides, each groove extending across the whole of the side in which it is situated, the grooves on two co-terminous sides having their mouths facing upwards when the mouths of the other two grooves on the other two sides face downwards whereby a plurality of such blocks may be built up into a floor covering in which each block is locked on each side which lies contiguous the side of another such block, and which method also essentially comprises the use of connecting members having flanges adapted to engage beneath the overhanging flanges of two adjacent blocks where a change in direction of laying is required.

In order that my said invention may be readily understood I have herewith appended a sheet of drawings illustrative

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thereof, to which by figures and letters reference is made in the following description.

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal side elevation of a block which I use in carrying out the method according to my invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan of the block shown by Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an end elevation seen from right to left of the block shown by Fig. 1 with an adjacent block (in section) to the rear of same.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the block shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the member used in changing the direction of laying.

Fig. 6 is a sectional end elevation of the blocks as shown by Fig. 3 and with the additional member in its relative position therewith.

The formation of the pieces of wood *a* of the rectangular shape shown by Fig. 2, and of the desired thickness for producing a floor covering, necessitates said thickness being maintained throughout the whole of the floor.

Each of the rectangular pieces of wood is cut along its two sides and crosswise its two ends so that flanges *c'* and *c''* on said sides, and *a'*, *b'* across its ends, are formed to extend from the upper and lower parts *b* respectively, the former to overhang and the latter to extend beyond same in order that each of these flanges may be placed in position and engagement with the other, as is hereinafter explained.

In the formation of the flanges *a'* and *b'* on each block *a* the cutting tool is arranged to produce a groove *a''* and *b''* along each flange and across each end.

This groove is of an angular shape in cross section which will enable the wedge-shaped edge 2 in each case to fit snugly into and fill the corresponding space 3 on the adjoining block *a* when assembled to cover the floor they are to produce, by which means the wedging actions of the one, when forced into position with the other, produce a binding effect which is very efficient.

The formation of the longitudinal flanges *c'* and crosswise flanges *b'* is carried out so as to have the depth of each flange from its base to its edge (as indicated by the arrows *x* — *y*, Fig. 7), so 110

that it equals the depth from the upper surface  $a^1$  downwardly to the edge  $y^1$  of the same figure, in order that when thus produced the assembling of the blocks in their final adjoining positions to form the floor, the engagement of the wedge shaped portions with the wedge shaped grooves allows the assembled blocks to be level and even by all their upper surfaces occupying one and the same plane, while their base surfaces will also all occupy another plane that is parallel to the one above, with all the flanges and grooves intersecting as described.

In laying the blocks to cover a floor the first block would be placed at the left hand corner of said floor, and each succeeding block would be placed with one of its overhanging flanges  $b^2$  within the groove  $a^1$  or  $c^1$  and in this way the covering of the floor would proceed to the right and to the front, so that each block would present two upturned edges (longitudinal and crosswise) to receive the next blocks, and each block already laid would be prevented from being removed at any time by reason of having its said two edges held down by the succeeding blocks.

The firm gripping of each block to the others is strong enough to resist the strains caused by shrinkage of the wood and so any space left by said shrinking can be made to appear at any desired side of the room where an unnoticeable strip of packing may be placed.

By forming the joints in the manner described the floor of the room may be formed of concrete or any other floor-producing material and the blocks (with the usual plastic building substance, as pitch or the like) laid upon its surface without any other fixing means being necessary.

In order that I may reverse the direction of laying the blocks for the purpose of fitting within a recess in a room or where otherwise necessary I construct a small block 4, as shown by Figs. 6 and 7. This block 4 may then slide beneath the

downturned edge of a block previously laid, and it will then present an upturned edge  $3a$  upon which succeeding blocks may be placed. By these means the upper surface of the blocks and the design which they make is in no way interfered with.

I wish it to be understood that I do not claim *per se* the rectangular block  $a$  as shown in any of the Figures of the accompanying drawings and that an essential feature of my method of constructing a parquetry floor is the use of the member such as 4 for enabling a reverse in the laying direction to be effected.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. A method of constructing a parquetry floor whose surface consists of rectangular blocks, which comprises the use of reversible rectangular blocks each of which has protruding flanges forming sphenoidal grooves on each of its four sides, each groove extending across the whole of the side in which it is situated, the grooves on two co-terminous sides having their mouths facing upwards when the mouths of the other two grooves on the other two sides face downwards whereby a plurality of such blocks may be built up into a floor covering in which each block is locked on each side which lies contiguous the side of another such block, and which method also essentially comprises the use of connecting members having flanges adapted to engage beneath the overhanging flanges of two adjacent blocks where a change in direction of laying is required.

2. A method according to Claim 1 where either side of the rectangular blocks may be uppermost.

Dated the 24th day of July, 1884.

SAMUEL HEY,  
Agent.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

